



**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROTECT THE CONSTITUTIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

The Coalition of national civil society organizations dedicated to the fight against corruption under the umbrella of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) has taken careful notice of a petition from the Auditor General, Mr. Daniel Domelevo to the President leaked to the media. The petition, which has been confirmed as authentic, raises concerns about activities of the Board Chairman of the Audit Service Board, Professor Edward Dua Agyeman and members of Board, amounting to interference with the functions of the Auditor General and in some cases represent a violation of the Public Procurement Act 2003 (Act 663). We consider these developments extremely troubling and a threat to the ongoing efforts by the Audit Service to protect the public purse and promote public accountability.

Article 187 (7) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana is very clear that in the performance of his functions the Auditor General “shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority”. Those functions include auditing the public accounts of Ghana, all public offices including universities, courts and local assemblies. This independence is thus essential in ensuring the Auditor General carries his duties impartially, professionally and in pursuit of the public interest. This is why the Constitution under Article 187 (8) provides a very narrow set of circumstances for even the President to request the Auditor-General to conduct audits outside of planned audits.

The Coalition therefore finds it unfortunate that Professor Dua Agyeman, a former Auditor General himself, credited with initiating important reforms at the Audit Service that has helped in building the institution to its current level is the one implicated in this worrying situation. This scenario mirrors a number of Board – Executive impasse that has engulfed the public sector and reflect the weaknesses of our corporate governance arrangements. Notwithstanding, this general observation, the Constitution is very clear about the limited role the Board of the Audit Service should play.

We have taken notice of the swift action of the President, once the matter became public, to investigate the matter and we urge that this task is undertaken with alacrity to ensure the ongoing work of the Auditor General and the morale of the Service is not affected.

Finally, the Coalition wish to state unequivocally that it holds Mr. Daniel Domelevo and the staff of the Audit Service in high regard for the work they have embarked upon to ensure that our leaders are held accountable for how they utilize public resources. If we are going to seriously achieve a Ghana Beyond Aid we need a stronger and more committed Audit Service and Auditor-General. We hope that at the end of this process we would have taken positive steps in that direction.

Yours in the service of Ghana.

**Signed.**

No	Name	Designation and Organization
1.	Nana Osei-Bonsu	Chair - Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), CEO-PEF
	Beauty Emefa Narteh	Executive Secretary – GACC
2.	Prof. H. K. Prempeh	Executive Director, Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)
3.	Prof. E. Gyimah-Boadi	Executive Director, Afrobarometer
4.	Linda Ofori-Kwafo	Executive Director, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
5.	Benjamin Boakye	Executive Director, Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP)
6.	Emmanuel O. Akwetey	Executive Director, Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)
7.	George Osei Bimpeh	Country Director, SEND-Ghana
8.	Kwami Ahiabenu	Executive Director, Penplusbyte
9.	Elizabeth	Executive Director, Financial Accountability &

	Nkrumah	Transparency-Accra (FAT-Africa)
10.	Steve Manteaw	Campaign Coordinator, ISODEC/CSO Oil and Gas Platform
11.	Franklin Cudjoe	President, IMANI – Ghana
12.	Sulemana Braimah	Executive Director, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)
13.	Nana Afadzinu	Executive Director, West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
14.	Mina Mensah	Regional Coordinator, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)/RTI Coalition
15.	Gladys Gillian Naadu Tetteh	Deputy Director, Centre for Local Governance Advocacy (CLGA)
16.	William Nyarko	Executive Director, Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability – ACILA
17.	Samuel Obeng	Executive Director, Parliamentary News Africa – PNAfrica
18.	Godson Aloryito	Coordinator, CSO Platform on IMF
19.	Frank Bodza	Programmes Manager, WILDAF Ghana
20.	Edem Senanu	Co-Chair, Citizens Movement Against Corruption (CMaC)
21.	Daphne Lariba Nabila	Executive Director, Legal Resources Centre (LRC)

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